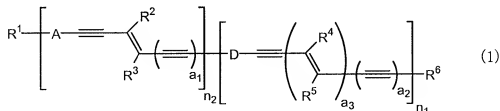


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

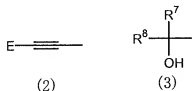
1. (Previously Presented) A π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound, characterized by being represented by the formula (1)

[Chemical Formula 1]



{wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or chlorine atom, or a group represented by the following formula (2) or a group represented by the following formula (3)}

[Chemical Formula 2]



[wherein E represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group or a thienyl group (provided that said phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine or chlorine atom),

R^7 and R^8 independently represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms],

R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , and R^5 independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

R^6 represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group, a thienyl group (provided that the phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine or chlorine atom), a group represented by the afore-indicated formula (2) or a group represented by the afore-indicated formula (3),

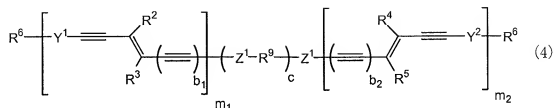
A and D independently represent a naphthalene ring, an anthracene ring, a phenanthrene group, a phenarene ring, a fluorene ring, a triphenylene ring, a pyrene ring, a perylene ring, a pyrimidine ring, a pyridazine ring, a pyrazine ring, a furan ring, a pyrrole ring, a pyrazole ring, an imidazole ring, a benzothiadiazole ring, a thieno[3,4-b]pyrazine ring, a furo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring or a 6H-pyrrolo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or a chlorine atom),

a_1 , a_2 , and a_3 are independently 0 or 1, and

n_1 and n_2 are independently an integer of 1 to 5}.

2. (Currently Amended) A π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound, characterized by being represented by the formula (4)

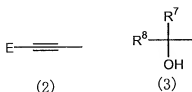
[Chemical Formula 3]



[wherein R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , and R^5 independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

R^6 represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group, a thienyl group (provided that the phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine or chlorine atom), a group represented by the formula (2) or a group represented by the formula (3),

[Chemical Formula 4]



[wherein E represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group or a thienyl group (provided that said phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a

dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine or chlorine atom),

R^7 and R^8 independently represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms],

Z^1 , Y^1 , and Y^2 independently represent a paraphenylene group, a naphthalene ring, an anthracene ring, a phenanthrene group, a phenarene ring, a fluorene ring, a triphenylene ring, a pyrene ring, a perylene ring, a pyridine ring, a pyrimidine ring, a pyridazine ring, a pyrazine ring, a furan ring, a pyrrole ring, a pyrazole ring, an imidazole ring, a thiophene ring, a benzothiadiazole ring, a thieno[3,4-b]pyrazine ring, a furo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring or a 6H-pyrrolo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings and ~~group groups~~ may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or a chlorine atom), R^9 represents a single bond, -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -S(O₂)-, -C(O)O-, -OC(O)-, -C(S)O-, -OC(S)-, -C(O)NH-, -NHC(O)-, -C(S)NH-, -NH(CS)-, -NH- or a divalent saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group that has 1 to 8 carbon atoms and may be branched,

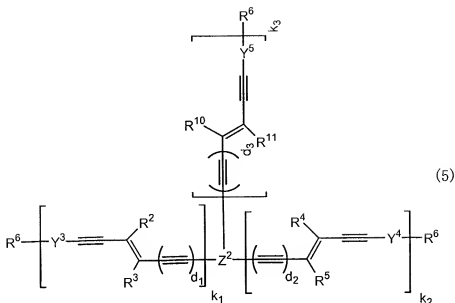
b_1 and b_2 are independently 0 or 1,

c is an integer of 0 to 3, and

m_1 and m_2 are independently an integer of 1 to 5].

3. (Previously Presented) A π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound, characterized by being represented by the formula (5)

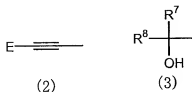
[Chemical Formula 5]



{wherein R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , and R^5 independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

R^6 represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group, a thienyl group (provided that the phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine or chlorine atom), a group represented by the formula (2) or a group represented by the formula (3),

[Chemical Formula 6]



[wherein E represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group or a thienyl group (provided that said phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine or chlorine atom),

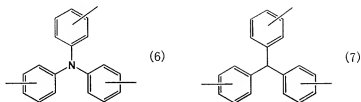
R^7 and R^8 independently represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms],

R^{10} and R^{11} independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

Y^3 to Y^5 independently represent a benzene ring, a naphthalene ring, an anthracene ring, a phenanthrene group, a phenarene ring, a fluorene ring, a triphenylene ring, a pyrene ring, a perylene ring, a pyridine ring, a pyrimidine ring, a pyridazine ring, a pyrazine ring, a furan ring, a pyrrole ring, a pyrazole ring, an imidazole ring, a thiophene ring, a benzothiadiazole ring, a thieno[3,4-b]pyrazine ring, a furo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring or a 6H-pyrrolo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or a chlorine atom),

Z^2 represents a trivalent aryl group, a group represented by the following formula (6) or a group represented by the following formula (7)

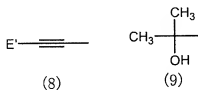
[Chemical Formula 7]



d_1 to d_3 are independently 0 or 1, and
 k_1 to k_3 are independently an integer of 1 to 5}.

4. (Original) The π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound according to Claim 1, characterized in that said R^1 is a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, a methoxy group, a propoxy group, a methyl group, a trifluoromethyl group, a group represented by the following formula (8) or a group represented by the following formula (9)

[Chemical Formula 8]

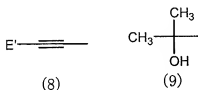


[wherein E' represents a hydrogen atom, a trimethylsilyl group, a tri-*i*-propylsilyl group, a phenyl group, a pyridyl group, a thienyl group (provided that the phenyl group, pyridyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, a methoxy group, an *n*-propoxy group, a methyl group or a trifluoromethyl group)].

5. (Original) The π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that said R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , and R^5 independently represent a hydrogen atom, a methyl group, an ethyl group or an *n*-propyl group.

6. (Previously Presented) The π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound according to Claim 1, characterized in that said R^6 is a hydrogen atom, a trimethylsilyl group, a tri-*i*-propylsilyl group, a phenyl group, a pyridyl group, a thienyl group (provided that said phenyl group, pyridyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, a methoxy group, an *n*-propoxy group, a methyl group or a trifluoromethyl group), a group represented by the following formula (8) or a group represented by the following formula (9),

[Chemical Formula 9]



[wherein E' represents a hydrogen atom, a trimethylsilyl group, a tri-*i*-propylsilyl group, a phenyl group, a pyridyl group, a thienyl group (provided that the phenyl group, pyridyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, a methoxy group, an *n*-propoxy group, a methyl group or a trifluoromethyl group)].

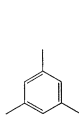
7. (Previously Presented) The π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound according to Claim 1, characterized in that said A and D independently represent a pyrimidine ring, a pyridazine ring, a pyrazine ring, a furan ring, a pyrrole ring, a pyrazole ring, an imidazole ring, a benzothiadiazole ring, a thieno[3,4-*b*]pyrazine ring, a furo[3,4-*b*]pyrazine ring or a 6H-pyrrolo[3,4-*b*]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or a chlorine atom).

8. (Previously Presented) The π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound according to Claim 7, characterized in that said A and D independently represent a pyridazine ring, a benzothiadiazole ring or a thieno[3,4-b]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a cyano group, a methoxy group, an n-propoxy group, a methyl group or a trifluoromethyl group).

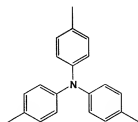
9. (Previously Presented) The π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound according to Claim 2, characterized in that said Z^1 , Y^1 , and Y^2 independently represent a benzene ring, a naphthalene ring, an anthracene ring, a pyridine ring, a pyridazine ring, a thiophene ring, a pyrrole ring, a benzothiadiazole ring or a thieno[3,4-b]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a cyano group, a methoxy group, an n-propoxy group, a methyl group or a trifluoromethyl group), and R^9 represents a single bond or -O-, b_1 and b_2 are both 1, and c is 0 or 1.

10. (Previously Presented) The π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound according to Claim 3, characterized in that said Y^3 to Y^5 independently represent a phenylene ring, a naphthalene ring, an anthracene ring, a pyridine ring, a pyridazine ring, a thiophene ring, a pyrrole ring, a benzothiadiazole ring or a thieno[3,4-b]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a cyano group, a methoxy group, an n-propoxy group, a methyl group or a trifluoromethyl group), Z^2 is a group represented by the following formula (10) or a group represented by the following formula (11), and d_1 to d_3 are all 1.

[Chemical Formula 10]



(10)

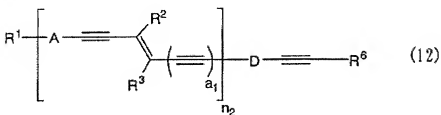


(11)

11. (Currently Amended) An organic electroluminescent device ~~of a type~~ which comprises an anode and a cathode, and an organic thin film layer interposed ~~there~~ therein between, characterized in that said organic thin film layer is a layer constituted to contain the π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound defined in Claim 1.

12. (Currently Amended) A π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound, characterized by being represented by the formula (12)

[Chemical Formula 11]



{wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 atoms, a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or chlorine atom, or a group represented by the following formula (2)}

[Chemical Formula 12]



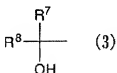
[wherein E represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group or a thienyl group (provided that said phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or

thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 atoms, a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or chlorine atom)],

R² and R³ independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

R⁶ represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl ~~group~~ group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group or a thienyl group (provided that said phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 atoms, a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or chlorine atom), or a group represented by the following formula (3),

[Chemical Formula 13]



(wherein R⁷ and R⁸ independently represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbons atoms),

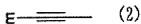
A and D independently represent a pyridine ring or a thiophene ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or a chlorine atom),

a₁ is independently 0 or 1, and

n₂ is independently an integer or 1 to 5}.

13. (Currently Amended) The π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound of claim 12, wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a group represented by the following formula (2)

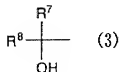
[Chemical Formula 14]



[wherein E represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a thienyl group (provided that said thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a cyano group)],

R^6 represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, pyridyl group (provided that said pyridyl group may be optionally substituted with a cyano group or an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms), or a group represented by the following formula (3),

[Chemical Formula 13]



(wherein R^7 and R^8 represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms).

14. (Previously Presented) The π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound of claim 13, wherein R^7 and R^8 represent a methyl group.

15. (Currently Amended) The π -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound of claim 13, wherein Z^1 , Y^1 and Y^2 independently represent a naphthalene ring, an anthracene ring, a phenanthrene group, a phenarene ring, a fluorene ring, a triphenylene ring, a pyrene ring, a perylene ring, a pyridine ring, a pyrimidine ring, a pyridazine ring, a pyrazine ring, a furan ring, a pyrrole ring, a pyrazole ring, an imidazole ring, a thiophene ring, a benzothiadiazole ring, a thieno[3,4-b]pyrazine ring, a furo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring or a 6H-pyrrolo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a halogenated alkyl

group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or a chlorine atom).